

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (Currently amended) An information management method, comprising:  
encrypting predetermined information that is stored in a predetermined secure area of a recording medium using medium-specific information or a key generated therefrom;  
storing the encrypted predetermined information in an area outside said predetermined secure area; and  
deriving said encrypted predetermined information outside said predetermined secure area;  
wherein said secure area is not subject to control by external instructions.
2. (Previously presented) The information management method of claim 1, wherein said recording medium comprises a first area storing said predetermined information and a second area different from said first area.
3. (Currently amended) The information management method of claim 2, wherein said second area is a user-use area allowing writing and reading out of any information in accordance with external instructions ~~and said first area is a secure area that is not subject to control by external instructions.~~
4. (Original) The information management method of claim 3, wherein any information stored in said second area is encrypted electronic data and predetermined information stored in said first area includes license information based on use rights for using said electronic data.
5. (Previously presented) The information management method according to claim 4, wherein said predetermined information stored in said first area is encrypted using said

medium-specific information or a key generated therefrom and the encrypted predetermined information is stored in a predetermined area.

6. (Original) The information management method of claim 5, wherein said predetermined information is encrypted using information specific to an apparatus that drives said recording medium or a key generated therefrom.

7. (Original) The information management method according to claim 6, wherein said encrypted predetermined information is stored in said second area.

8. (Original) The information management method of claim 7, wherein said encrypted predetermined information stored in said second area is decrypted using said medium-specific information or a key generated therefrom and the predetermined information stored in said first area is updated.

9. (Original) The information management method of claim 7, wherein, when said predetermined information is to be derived outside said first area, it is encrypted using said medium-specific information or a key generated therefrom and information specific to an apparatus that drives said recording medium or a key generated therefrom.

10. (Original) The information management method of claim 9, wherein said encrypted predetermined information stored in said second area is decrypted using information specific to an apparatus that drives said recording medium or a key generated therefrom and said medium-specific information or a key generated therefrom, and predetermined information stored in said first area is updated.

11. (Original) The information management method according to claim 1, wherein said encrypted predetermined information is stored on a second recording medium different from said recording medium.

12. (Previously presented) The information management method of claim 11, wherein encrypted predetermined information stored in said second recording medium is decrypted using said medium-specific information or a key generated therefrom and predetermined information stored in said predetermined area is updated.

13. (Original) The information management method of claim 11, wherein, when said predetermined information is to be derived on said second recording medium, it is encrypted using said medium-specific information or a key generated therefrom and information specific to an apparatus that drives said second recording medium or a key generated therefrom.

14. (Previously presented) The information management method of claim 13, wherein encrypted predetermined information stored in second recording medium is decrypted using information specific to an apparatus that drives said second recording medium or a key generated therefrom and said medium-specific information or a key generated therefrom, and predetermined information stored in said predetermined area is updated.

15. (Original) The information management method according to claim 1, wherein said medium-specific information can be electronically obtained from said recording medium and is visually displayed on said recording medium.

16. (Previously presented) The information management method according to claim 6, wherein information specific to an apparatus that drives said recording medium can be electronically obtained from said apparatus and is visually displayed on said apparatus.

17. (Previously presented) The information management method according to claim 13, wherein information specific to an apparatus that drives said second recording medium can be electronically obtained from said apparatus and is visually displayed on said apparatus.

18. (Previously presented) An information management apparatus managing information of a recording medium, the recording medium having medium-specific information, and comprising a user-use area allowing writing and reading out of any information in accordance with external instructions and a secure area that is not subject to control by external instructions, wherein license information based on use rights for any information stored in a user-use area is stored in a secure area, said information management apparatus comprising:  
write and read out means writing any information to and reading any information from said user-use area; and  
predetermined information deriving means encrypting predetermined information stored in said secure area using said medium-specific information or a key generated therefrom, storing

the encrypted predetermined information in an area outside said secure area; and deriving the stored encrypted predetermined information in an area outside said secure area.

19. (Previously presented) The information management apparatus of claim 18, wherein encrypted license information is stored by said write and read out means in said user-use area.

20. (Original) The information management apparatus of claim 19, further comprising predetermined information update means decrypting said encrypted license information stored in said user-use area and updating license information stored in said secure area.

21. (Original) The information management apparatus according to claim 18, comprising apparatus-specific information, wherein said predetermined information deriving means encrypts said license information using said medium-specific information or said key generated therefrom and information specific to said apparatus or a key generated therefrom.

22. (Previously presented) The information management apparatus of claim 21, further comprising predetermined information update means decrypting encrypted license information stored in said user-use area using information specific to said apparatus or a key generated therefrom and said medium-specific information or a key generated therefrom and updating license information stored in said secure area.

23. (Original) The information management apparatus of claim 18, wherein said predetermined information deriving means transmits said encrypted license information to a second recording medium different from said recording medium.

24. (Previously presented) The information management apparatus of claim 23, further comprising predetermined information update means decrypting encrypted license information stored in said second recording medium using said medium-specific information and updating license information stored in said secure area.

25. (Previously presented) The information management apparatus of claim 23, wherein an apparatus that drives said second recording medium comprises apparatus-specific

information and said predetermined information deriving means encrypts said license information using said medium-specific information or a key generated therefrom and information specific to an apparatus that drives said second recording medium or a key generated therefrom.

26. (Previously presented) The information management apparatus of claim 25, further comprising predetermined information update means decrypting encrypted license information stored in said second recording medium using information specific to an apparatus that drives said second recording medium or a key derived therefrom and said medium-specific information or a key generated therefrom and updating license information stored in said secure area.

27. (Previously presented) The information management method according to claim 1, wherein the area outside the secure area is external to the recording medium.

28. (Previously presented) The information management apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the area outside the secure area is external to the recording medium.

29. (Cancelled)